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**Clean
slate**

Verizon
waives library
long-distance bill

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The town of Duxbury and Verizon have reached a resolution regarding the long distance phone bill of more than \$15,000 due to the fraudulent international calls made through the phone system at Duxbury Free Library.

After discussions between the town and the phone company, Verizon concluded that the town was not at fault and would issue a full credit. Town Manager Richard MacDonald, who previously said he was "disgusted" with the situation, is feeling better now.

"I'm pleased with the path the investigation has taken," he said. "I'm pleased that Verizon decided to give the town a full credit and that we reached a resolution."

The calls were made on Feb. 7 through Feb. 19 and again on March 19 to international locations including India, Jordan and the Philippines. By itself, the call to the Philippines was 37 hours and cost more than \$7,000.

After the library discovered the suspicious activity, the town requested the phone bills from Verizon, but at first only received the local bill. The town did not get the long distance bill until May and worked on having the charges waived while an investigation began. Since the investigation was pending, the town was still considered responsible for the charge and selectmen had to vote to transfer money within departments in order to cover the charge.

However, at Monday's selectmen's meeting, MacDonald announced that Verizon would be waiving the \$15,500 phone bill.

The phone system at the library, which is now checked on a regular basis, has been recently updated and the long-distance feature is now blocked and password-protected. When asked about the progress of the investigation, MacDonald said he could not comment because the Verizon Fraud Unit and the FBI are now handling it.